

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 9-20 are pending. By this Amendment, independent claims 9 and 15 are amended.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended by Examiner Doan during a telephonic interview conducted on October 6, 2008. During the telephonic interview, the Examiner agreed that the rejection based on Cupp (U.S. Patent No. 6,766,805) and Rice (U.S. Patent No. 5,493,735) under 35 U.S.C. §102 would be withdrawn in view of the attached amendments.

In particular, neither Rice nor Cupp teaches or suggests a fitting for choosing a hairstyle, per the preamble, in conjunction with at least two locks that are associated with different hairstyles. The two different locks associated with different hairstyles are not shown in either Rice nor Cupp, and nor is there any motivation to modify Rice or Cupp to include the claimed structure.

Claims 9 and 15 have been amended for clarity only to amplify this distinction by specifying in claims 9 and 15 that the two locks are of different hairstyles, and then later referring to the different hairstyles in the last line of claims 9 and 15. Claims 9 and 15 have also been amended so as to more positively recite that the two locks of different hairstyles are fastened on the support. During the October 6 telephone interview, the Examiner indicated that the amendments to claims 9 and 15 represent new issues requiring further consideration. Therefore, the next Office Action (following entry of the attached Request for Continued Examination) if not a Notice of Allowance, should be a non-final Office Action.

In any event, the Examiner agreed that the amendments included herein and discussed during the October 6 telephone conference would overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 over Cupp or Rice.

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Appl. No. 10/580,562
October 8, 2008

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, as well as the October 6 telephone conference, Applicant respectfully submits that all the claims are patentable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140 under Order No. PTB-3687-170.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, she is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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